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MHD MOVES SWIFTLY TO ADDRESS H1N1 FLU VIRUS IN MILWAUKEE

by Paul Biedrzycki



The City of Milwaukee Health Department has leapt into action to address the outbreak of the novel influenza virus H1N1. On Sunday, April 26, a modified Incident Command structure was set up, roles assigned, and work began. When there is an outbreak like this, it is incumbent upon MHD and other local health departments around the country to plan for a worst-case scenario, and to assume that the virus is both easily transmissible and potentially severe.

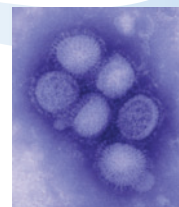
What has MHD done to address the outbreak? As well as closely monitoring all cases of probable and confirmed H1N1 in the city and issuing orders to close schools when needed, MHD is conducting an intensive epidemiological investigation of the spread of the disease. We are contacting and testing many people who have symptoms and have had contact with a known probable or confirmed case. MHD's lab is one of three in the state that can determine probable cases, and will soon be able to test for confirmation of the virus, under guidance from the CDC. A number of staff have been reassigned from their regular duties to help in this effort. We have also

set up a hotline to provide information to the public, and the MHD held special testing clinics on the first weekend of May.

The MHD's Incident Command team has been working around the clock, and meeting twice daily for briefings. Of course, the Mayor and the Common Council are kept closely informed as to all new developments. We are also working closely with a number of stakeholders, including MPS, business leaders, hospital executives, and state officials.

Communication is always a critical element in this type of situation. We set up on-site all-staff meetings at each of our health centers for MHD staff, and have been sending out regular all-staff email updates. Our Graphics team has created a special website with numerous pieces of information in both English and Spanish: <http://www.milwaukee.gov/2009SwineFlu>. As well as general information, we have posted all H1N1 press releases, and videos of press conferences. Last but not least, MHD has two Twitter accounts for breaking news and information, one in English and one in Spanish:

twitter.com/mkehealth or twitter.com/mkesalud.



H1N1 flu virus

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS



Bevan K. Baker, FACHE

In April I visited each health center as part of our National Public Health Week activities. Although it was a chance to share departmental updates, it also served as an opportunity to hear what was on your mind.

We had a great time. I appreciate all the comments and want to reiterate my thanks to each and every one of you for your dedication toward making Milwaukee a healthier community.

Milwaukee, like the rest of the nation and world is in the midst of an outbreak. We continue to identify cases of Influenza A (H1N1) S-OIV (Swine-Origin Influenza Virus), or H1N1 S-OIV, in our community each day. And we're making tough decisions to help minimize the spread of disease throughout the community.

This is a new virus, to which no one has any immunity, and for which there is currently no vaccine. The outbreak has been going on in this country and in this city for only a very short time, and we have much to learn about as things unfold.

However, we have prepared for a situation such as this for the past three to four years. We are ready. I assure you that at every step along the way, we have made every prudent effort to protect the health of the people of Milwaukee.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department has also begun its transition toward an academic and business model approach to public health. I realize many of you have questions about our progress and urge you to attend one of the informal discussions that will be held in May to learn more about our endeavors and partnership with the UWM School of Public Health and the Center for Health Equity.

The department is also working closely with city agencies and community partners to improve awareness on infant safe sleep. I stand firm in our position that the safest place for babies to sleep is on their backs, in their own crib or bassinet, with no pillows, bumper pads, blankets, or toys.

I've stated countless times that the department is committed to decreasing the number of infants who die before their first birthday. In addition, I've also said that our number one priority is to safeguard the health of our community. Never more has delivering on these issues been more critical.

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

PARTNERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

by Paul Biedrzycki & Anupa Gandhi



The MHD and MFD joined forces to deliver flu vaccinations to Milwaukee citizens this flu season. On November 8, MFD emergency medical service personnel provided flu shots at two engine houses: 1313 W. Reservoir Road and 4141 W. Mill Road, under MHD supervision. Over 140 flu shots were provided during this time.

Partnerships are at the core of public health practice. This is especially true

when building capacity for emergency preparedness and response within a community. Strong and vibrant partnerships bring a diversity of ideas to the table in problem-solving critical issues, and often result in a broader array of options and solutions.

The MHD has had a long-standing relationship with the MFD on a number of fronts, including Hazmat response, fire safety, and EMS. MFD engine houses are an easily identified landmark in many neighborhoods. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that this collaboration not only improved public access to flu shots, but also allowed for testing and evaluation of MHD emergency preparedness capability.

In the event of a major biological incident such as pandemic influenza or bioterrorism, local public health agencies must plan for the use of other local health professionals, including paramedics and EMTs, to deliver antibiotics, vaccinations and other medical countermeasures to the public within a short window of time.

Exercising these types of plans is tremendously important and provides valuable lessons learned for refinement and improvement. Some of the key lessons learned included ways to improve clinic flow processes, facility setup, and registration forms. This partnership is a visible example of how we can use alternative and available city resources and infrastructure to assure public health!

MHD: AN ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

by Jill Paradowski and Geof Swain



We have been hearing for some time now that the MHD is working toward becoming an “Academic Health Department” (AHD). But what does that mean?

The AHD model is a reciprocal partnership where the academic setting (usually a School of Public Health) and the official governmental local public health department (the LPHD) come together to enhance the public health workforce, conduct research, maximize data usage, provide classroom and field experiences for future public health workers, and improve the health of a community. Thus, this partnership achieves a robust level of teaching, research, and service not possible when the two partners work independently. The LPHD makes its management and staff available to provide guidance, support, and educational experiences to the students in the School of Public Health, while the school provides students & faculty to assist the LPHD in data analysis and community work.

Almost 20 years ago, the MHD developed an academic partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Dr. Geof Swain and Dr. Carole Bain, both from MCW, guided clinical practice for STDs, immunizations, and other topics. Dr. Swain is now with the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), and the UW SMPH has

strengthened that partnership by funding Dr. Barbra Beck to guide the work of UW Population Health Fellows placed at the MHD. These UW-paid post-master’s-degree Fellows, along with master’s-in-public-health students from UW-Madison and UW-LaCrosse and our research partners at the Center for Urban Population Health, provide an extension of our current workforce and assist us in research, evaluation and other program needs often not accomplished by our over-burdened workforce.

A new School of Public Health is being developed at UWM, with the first students set to begin this coming fall. The MHD has been at the table from the beginning, fostering the relationships that we will need as an AHD. The UWM SPH will be a key partner for the MHD. It will allow us to expand our expertise and effectiveness on research and data analysis and to implement the most current, evidence-based public health practices. And our community will benefit by having a larger, stronger, and even more highly-trained public health workforce.

For more information on AHDs, please see an article in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice [2006;12(1):33-36], by Swain et al., titled Local Health Department and Academic Partnerships: Education Beyond the Ivy Walls, available on the MHD internal MINT, or find information about other AHDs here: <http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=950>

Look to learn more about MHD becoming an academic health department through informal informational sessions. Details coming soon.

THE MHD IS NOW BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY



Breast milk is the healthiest option for almost all babies, and the MHD supports breastfeeding mothers. Although women have the right to breastfeed at any time and any place, they often face barriers when they attempt to breastfeed their babies outside the home. Last year, the MHD took up a challenge to become a “Breastfeeding friendly” workplace. A dedicated group of MHD employees has undertaken a ten-step process, which will be complete by the end of this year.

As one part of the ten steps, we have provided private breastfeeding rooms at each of our facilities, for use both by MHD staff, and clients. These rooms are:

- ZMB: Third floor next to the training room
- KHC: First floor in the WIC area, room 117
- SSHC: First floor in the clinic waiting area
- NWHC: First floor, room 129A

You can identify the room by the national breastfeeding logo (shown above). Please let nursing women know they are welcome to breastfeed in these special rooms, or in our waiting rooms – whichever they prefer.

If you have any questions, please talk to the WIC dietitians or the public health nurses at SSHC. The official MHD Breastfeeding Guidelines have been sent to all employees, and posted on the MHD intranet.

RETHINK YOUR WELLNESS DRINK

by Tracey Brand, RD

Permission for use granted by Mike Brady

With so many new age beverages on the market today, it's hard to keep up with all the choices. And at a time when many Americans are struggling to maintain a healthier lifestyle, you'll be happy to know that you don't have to look further than the local dairy aisle – or your refrigerator – for a healthy addition to your wellness plan.

It's time to rethink your wellness beverage choice and remember milk. Naturally nutrient-rich like no other beverage, milk is nature's wellness drink and offers an array of benefits that other fortified beverages can only attempt to duplicate.

"It's only logical to think of milk as a wellness drink because it is a nutrient powerhouse – packed with 9 essential nutrients important for good health," says wellness and nutrition expert and author Wendy Bazilian, DrPH, RD. "Milk supplies more nutrients for your dollar than virtually any other drink. You and your family can get wellness by the gallon with milk."

When you think about all the ways you pursue wellness, drinking lowfat or fat free milk each day is one small step in the right direction. It's a simple thing you can do for yourself that can provide a powerful payback. Besides, what other drink do you know that's been endorsed by more than 250 celebrities and has benefits supported by hundreds of scientific studies?

A new report called the New Face of Wellness available on whymilk.com sheds some light on the advantages of drinking milk.

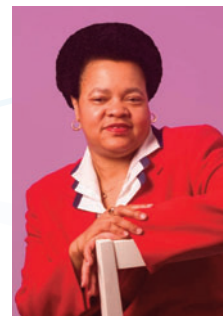


For example:

- Studies suggest that people who regularly drink milk tend to have healthier diets that are richer in essential nutrients and are more likely to be at a healthy weight than those who drink little or no milk.
- Drinking milk could help fuel your recovery routine after exercise. Recent studies suggest that milk can be just as effective as some commercial sports drinks in helping athletes refuel their muscles after a workout. The researchers believe milk contains the right combination of carbohydrates and protein to help exhausted muscles recover.
- Milk drinkers may have an edge when it comes to cardiovascular health, including blood pressure. Milk is low in sodium and high in potassium – a valuable combination for healthy blood pressure. In fact, several studies have shown that a healthy eating plan known as DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension), which is rich in lowfat or fat free milk and milk products, is an effective way to lower blood pressure, which in turn reduces the

Bottom line, wellness is about the easy things you can do every day to help balance your life and milk is a vital part of living well. It's always been that way. For more information, visit whymilk.com.

"2009 HEALTHY FAMILIES MEALS CAMPAIGN"



by Yvonne D. Greer

Family meals are declining or have disappeared. Fewer families have the time to eat together, and the shifting roles in families, plus more working parents, mean that eating out, or eating restaurant takeaway food is more likely than home cooking. Convenience and intolerance for food preparation and cooking that takes time, shapes urban people's lifestyles today. The result is a generation of young people who are growing up in homes where neither parent cooks. Although, some ethnic groups try to stick to their food traditions, with busy lifestyles, these often give way to fast-food solutions.

But a review of the literature by the American Dietetic Association (March, 2008) showed that eating dinner together as a family can have a positive effect upon the character and social development of the children, family communication skills, nutritional intake of the entire family, development of family traditions and the culinary skills of family members. Social relationships that develop while eating meals with others build a sense of community and belonging. The family meal can be an opportune time for socialization and role-modeling of manners and healthful eating habits. Moreover, the development of family unity through family meals is important during adolescence and may provide the structure and sense of unity and

continued on page 5

THE Healthy TIMES

HEALTHY FAMILIES

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connectedness young children need to feel safe and secure.

The importance of family meals extends beyond feelings of connectedness. Research has shown positive associations between family meal frequency and nutritional intake among children and adolescents and inverse associations with eating disturbances or unhealthy eating patterns, including skipping breakfast. In addition, adolescents who reported

more frequent family meals, a high priority for family meals, a positive atmosphere at family meals, and a more structured family meal environment were less likely to engage in disordered eating. According to a study at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center the more that families sat down together for meals, the better adjusted their teenage children were. Researchers found that those who ate with "adult family members an average of at least 5 times a week were less likely to use drugs or fall victim to depression than adolescents who ate with parents only 3 times a week". A similar, but larger study from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University also linked the number of times families eat together with the number of teenagers who are likely to use drugs and alcohol. This re-

search validates that the simple act of eating dinner as a family has a tremendous impact on the character and social development of the youth.

So, for the positive aspects that eating together as a family has on the health and wellbeing of the entire family, the "2009 Healthy Family Meals Campaign" is being launched by the Milwaukee Health Department, Adolescent Community Health Program, Prevention Services Grant. The Campaign includes a Healthy Family Meals Self Assessment Tool, a Family Meals Commitment Pledge (which list helpful steps for planning family meals), and a newsletter article for partner agencies promotions.

For more information contact: Yvonne Greer at ygreer@milwaukee.gov.

MHD IS RECIPIENT OF FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY



by Eric Gass

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), commonly called federal "stimulus money", was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The scope of ARRA rivals that of the New Deal programs enacted over 75 years ago, in an effort to reverse the effects of the Great De-

pression. Through direct allocations to state and local governments, competitive grant opportunities, and tax breaks and subsidies to individuals, ARRA will impact every aspect of the U.S. business, financial, and social sectors.

MHD has been working with the Mayor's Office and the Department of Administration to identify and obtain ARRA funds. We have already received \$874,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to inspect homes for indoor air quality in an effort to prevent and reduce asthma triggers, as well as to conduct lead hazard reductions in the home. This money was awarded through an existing funding channel, the Healthy Homes grant.

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BRIDGE TASKFORCE:

WORKING TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AT THE MHD



by Anupa Gandhi

The Building Respectful Internal Departmental Group Experiences (BRIDGE) Taskforce has been meeting routinely since November, work-

ing on the critical and Commissioner-driven mission of how to improve communication at the MHD. Made up of a small but broad representation of staff, the Taskforce process includes examining the "current state" of communication and the ideal "end state," and then determining how to close the gap between the two. BRIDGE is steadily making progress on drafting its strategic plan, ideally to be finished this summer.

The BRIDGE Taskforce has its own page on the MHD MINT where staff can find the list of committee members, meeting dates, agendas, and minutes. Please feel free to contact any of the members if you have a comment or feedback that you would like to share with BRIDGE!

FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY

continued from page 5

The MHD applied for a Healthy Homes grant in 2008, and scored high enough to meet the criteria for funding. However, there was not enough money in the federal budget to fund all eligible applicants. The additional stimulus funds were then awarded to qualified, but not funded 2008 applicants. Many of the health programs funded through NIH or CDC grants will be awarded through this method. New applicants will not be sought; funds will be allocated to applicants that just missed the cut in the 2008 application cycle.

Other stimulus funds will be awarded through competitive processes, such as the NIH Challenge Grants. MHD staff has identified several areas in which to pursue funding, including infant mortality, effective parenting, socioeconomic factors in affecting health, and immunizations. These grants, if funded, would provide up to \$500,000 per year, for two years. A minimum of 200, but possibly as many as 500-600 grants will be awarded nationally by October.

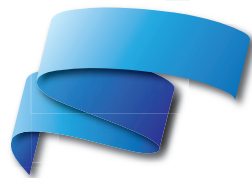
Finally, ARRA funds will be awarded through the existing formulas used by the State of Wisconsin. Examples include the MHD's Immunization Clinics and programs supported through Community Development Block Grants.

Please feel free to contact me at egass@milwaukee.gov or ext. 2903 if you have any questions.

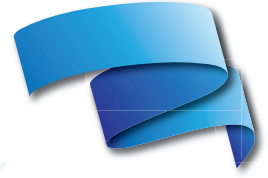
DO YOU HAVE A SAFETY CONCERN THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED?

Several years ago the MHD Safety Committee created a form for staff to use to report safety concerns. The form is designed so that employees will get a prompt review of their concern and can understand how the issue will be addressed. The form and accompanying instructions can be downloaded from the MHD internal MINT site and then scrolling down to HR Forms or by following this link:

http://mint.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/healthAuthors/MINT/PDFs/HR_14_Safety_Issues.pdf



UPAF/VISIONS 2009



THE 2009 UPAF/VISIONS CAMPAIGN WAS A GRAND SUCCESS!

As well as having lots of fun, MHD staff raised a total of \$14,088.97! This breaks down to \$12,980 in paycheck deductions or one-time donations, in addition to \$1,108.97 from all the fund-raising events. Of those fund-raising events, the two largest money-makers were the Art Auction, which raised \$558.00, and the Shamrock Cookie-Gram, which raised \$344.00. In these tough economic times, this is something to be really proud of!

Other fun UPAF/Visions events this year included a kick-off breakfast at each site, a "Goody-dessert" cook-off, a pizza party, and "guess the number" candy jars. The solicitors reached out to local businesses and non-profits, and solicited donated prizes such as a beautiful framed print, tickets to Discovery World, First Stage Children's Theater, the Milwaukee Public Museum, and the Milwaukee Wave. Other fun facts: the Cookie-Gram campaign sent 16 dozen shamrock cookies throughout the MHD, and the Art Auction generated 36 magnificent works of art from resident MHD artists.

None of it could have happened without the support of our outstanding MHD Solicitors, led by Anna Benton:

Ron LaPorte
Jeff Propp
Sue Blaustein
Danyel McNeil
Theresa Remsik-Traczek

Pat Walker-Anderson
Irmine Reitl
Marquetta Flowers
Bill Borzon

There was also plenty of assistance from Raquel Filmanowicz, Kawanza Newson, Laura Vanderbilt, Lori Hoffman, Cynthia Smith, and a number of others along the way. Thank you, MHD!

ERIC GASS

Public Health Research and Policy Director, ZMB 3rd Floor



Just for Fun

Find the 25 weather-related words listed below. Answers will be published in the next issue.

S U T A R T S G O F D
T E M P E R A T U R E
O I E S G R W L A O S
R W T U A C E D O S D
N N E R S M A F S T E
A R O R S R C L A N W
D E R I U O A E M I S
O P O C L T H I N M E
P E L D U S H D N B R
P N O A M R I N S U E
L I G H U E L P H S T
E H I G C D U O L C E
R S S W O N S I F E M
A N T H R U A L R L O
S U B R O H E I O U R
N S L E E T A R N I A
C H P R O I N S T O B
E N A C I R R U H C O

Barometer	Frost	Snow
Cirrus	Hail	Stratus
Cloud	Heat	Sunshine
Cold	Hurricane	Temperature
Cumulus	Meteorologist	Thunderstorm
Dew	Nimbus	Tornado
Doppler	Radar	Wind
Fog	Rain	
Front	Sleet	

If there is a person you would like to see featured in the Employee Highlight, please contact:

Kawanza Newson
knewso@milwaukee.gov
or call **x3548**.

Eric Gass likens his work as public health research and policy director to his passion for nature and sports – a fight for preservation and turf. He has dedicated his career to issues surrounding social justice and fairness in society, but is just as adept at playing golf, talking politics and playing Thomas the Tank Engine with his son. Dr. Gass joined MHD in January 2009, after spending more than six years at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee first as the Operations Manager for the Center for Health Communities and then an Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine. He put down his iPod filled with his favorite music to tell us a little more about himself.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

There were many things I enjoyed learning about as a child, but my favorite subject was social studies. When I was 11-12, I announced on Christmas Eve to my entire family that I was going to get my PhD and be a history professor. Not typical stuff for a pre-teen.

My other job option, one I worked very hard at as a child, was professional baseball player. I thought I had a shot until I set the single-season strikeout record for my high school team my senior year. That's times I struck out as a batter. At least I made the record books.

Who is the person you admire the most? Why?

My grandfather, Reuben LeClair, who passed away in January at age 85. He was an all-state basketball player and member of the 1941 state basketball champions at Two Rivers high school. He spent 3 years

in the Army in WWII, leading a reconnaissance platoon and liberating concentration camps, played semi-pro basketball after the war, survived two brain aneurysms, kidney cancer, and had both knees replaced. He raised 4 kids, worked as a commercial fisherman in Lake Michigan year round and later spent almost 30 years as a journeyman millwright in a factory. He had a very full life, but the reason I admire him is for something he didn't do...complain. The only things I heard him complain about had to do with the Packers or Brewers. When things look bad, I think of him, and wonder how Gramps would have handled it.

If you were assigned to a desert island for a year and could take one song and one kind of snack, what would you take?

Can I take an album; or maybe a fully loaded iPod? If not, I'd pick "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin. My snack is an easier choice, Nacho Cheese Doritos.

What is the weirdest thing that you keep or have kept in your desk drawer?

In the past, I had a framed 6x8 picture of a 1970s Elvis Presley, in full white, sparkly jumpsuit and sideburned glory. I picked it up at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. Don't ask why.

What's something about you that others would be surprised to know?

I spent three summers working in an aluminum foundry in Manitowoc, 6 days per week, to pay for college. I worked in the melting room in 120 degree heat, handling white hot aluminum that was used to make engine parts for Harley-Davidson, Mercury Marine and John Deere.

ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

by Danyel McNeil



The Medical Assistance Outreach Program (MAO) served nearly 4,000 individuals and issued approximately 3,300 backpacks full of school supplies at the annual

Back-to-School Health Fair.

The event enabled thousands of Milwaukee residents to get their children healthy and ready for school through immunizations, health checks, dental checks, eye exams and vouchers for glasses, nutrition applications for free and reduced lunch, blood lead testing, full physicals and an array of information about other health and nutrition topics.

Each family that visited a majority of the vendors and participated in the services offered at the health fair received a free book bag full of age-appropriate school supplies.

Many programs within the MHD share in the cost, work and support of this fantastic event, making it even more successful each year. Special thanks to the program staff, the WIC program, Lead, Team nursing, Empowering Families of Milwaukee, Nurse Family Partnership,

2008 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WALK TO PROTECT, PROMOTE & SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING

by Nancy Castro

About 150 people participated in the 2nd Annual Walk to Promote & Support Breastfeeding, which was coordinated by our WIC program and the Milwaukee County Breastfeeding Coalition.



The walk route began at the Sixteenth Street Health Center and ended at Aurora Sinai Hospital, where community partners set up displays with information promoting and supporting breastfeeding. Commissioner of Health Bevan Baker was the keynote speaker.

WIC/MHD walkers and supporters were Barbara Loguercio, Becky Lit-

Walkers and supporters

waitis, Lizabeth Rodriguez, Maricela Cortes, Men-tha'Munirah Bakari, Nancy Castro, Sara Mishefske, Yvonne Greer, Anna Benton, Janet Woolfolk, Jill Paradowski and Tina Grace. All walkers wore T-shirts and joined forces to send a unified message: A healthy community protects, promotes and supports breastfeeding. Please plan to join this year's walk on August 1st.

Keynote speaker Commissioner Baker



School and Adolescent Health Nurses, Immunization program, STD/HIV and all of the wonderful and dedicated volunteers who supported the event.

(right) Children with supply-filled backpacks received at the Health Fair; and (below) LONG line of participants waiting to get into the Health Fair



COMBINED GIVING RECAP

by Raquel Filmanowicz

DID YOU KNOW?

From Microbial Culture to DNA Sequencing: Tradition of Excellence Continues at the MHD

David Bina, David Griswold, Ajaib Singh and Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Microbiology, Virology and Molecular Science Laboratory

Diagnostic Microbiology is a tradition at the MHD. In 1874, Dr. James Johnson, Milwaukee's first health officer, established the Chemistry and Microscopy Laboratory to inspect milk and water for potential sources of disease and cultured bacteria for the diagnosis of infection. Our laboratory utilizes the latest infectious disease diagnosis methods and consulting services for Milwaukee citizens and community partners.

Today's advances in science and technology ensure that new diagnostic categories continue to emerge. With the potential to fundamentally alter clinical practice, these techniques are intended to match the right patient with the right treatment at the right time. The MHD has also entered into the new era of rapid, sensitive detection of pathogens using Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and DNA Sequencing. Today, with dedicated staff and test development efforts in diverse areas, the MHD is at the forefront of infectious disease diagnosis, consultation, and patient management.

DNA constitutes the inheritable genetic information that forms the basis for the life and development of all living organ-



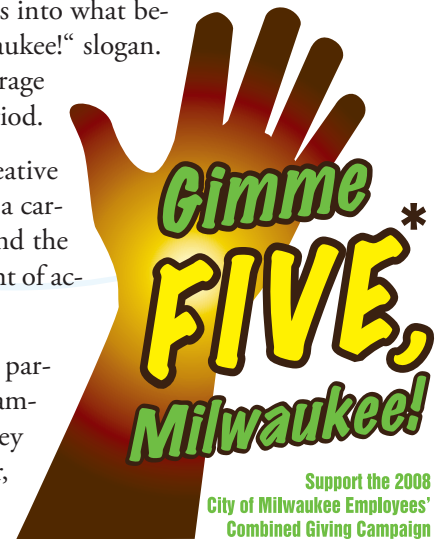
This year's campaign was a success, thanks in part to the MHD reaching an unprecedented participation level of 49.8%.

As with any campaign the department handles, marketing is the backbone of the communications strategy. Commissioner Baker, who led this year's city-wide campaign, emphasized that his goal was to increase overall city-wide participation by increasing the employee participation percentage. The MHD

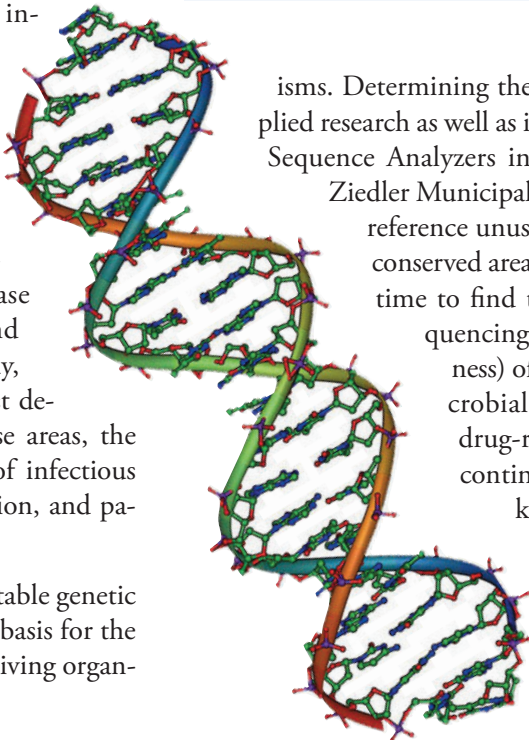
Graphics section gathered committee feedback and worked their magic to meld all ideas and concepts into what became known as the "Gimme Five, Milwaukee!" slogan. The theme rationale was simple: encourage city employees to give at least \$5 a pay period.

In addition, the MHD held several creative fundraisers, including Jeopardy at KHC, a carnival at SSHC, a bake sale at NWHC, and the TV Show Teaser at ZMB. But the highlight of activities was the annual scavenger hunt.

Though the overall goal of 28% employee participation was missed by .2%, the 2008 campaign did increase the amount of money raised by \$30,000 from the previous year, putting us at a final \$473,000.



*Just \$5 per pay period can transform our city...so let's start giving!



isms. Determining the DNA sequence is, therefore, useful in basic and applied research as well as in diagnostic microbiology. We have the latest Genetic Sequence Analyzers in our 'State-of-the-Art' reference laboratory at the Ziedler Municipal Building. These instruments are used to identify and reference unusual bacteria and fungal isolates, targeting variation in conserved areas in their genomes. We analyze DNA sequences in real time to find the best match and nearest neighbor pathogens. Sequencing can compare the phylogeny (evolutionary relatedness) of identified species to the databases of thousands of microbial species, including emerging pathogens like drug-resistant TB, MRSA, and threat agents. The MHD continues to move ahead with the goal of making Milwaukee the healthiest City in the US, the MHD laboratory is proud to continue our 125 years' tradition of excellence, quality and innovative services to the community.

THE *Healthy* TIMES KUDOS

Tiffany Barta, PHN Coordinator, provided a presentation about Lead Public Health Nursing to a group of Carroll College nursing students 12/02/08. She received a very nice thank you card with notes from the seven students and the instructor. They felt the presentation was very helpful, informative and interesting. Thanks, Tiffany!

Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya was in Washington DC in February representing the Association of Public Health Laboratories, as a member of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee and as one of APHL's instructors in influenza laboratory methods, at the Infectious Disease Society of America's conference entitled: "Seasonal & Pandemic Influenza 2009: A Turning Point". Sanjib presented a poster entitled: "The Role of Local Public Health Agencies in Community Healthcare Continuity through Antiviral Distribution during Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza". Co-authors of this poster of MHD's work were Anupa Gandhi, David Bina, Mary Ellen Bruesch, Angela Hagy, Paul Biedrzycki and Steve Gradus. Thanks, Sanjib – What a timely presentation this turned out to be!

KUDOS to the [Medical Assistance Outreach team](#), not only for a job well-done at our annual health fair, but also for their professionalism every day. Our department is the second best in the entire county (across three counties actually) in getting families to sign up for health insurance/Medicaid/Badger Care Plus. We are also first in the county (aside from Milwaukee County it-

self) when all the express enrollments are added to the number of applications.

Kudos to [Dr. Steve Gradus](#) for his excellent lecture given at Marquette University. Bravo!

To [Deb Tobin](#) for being the one-woman EFM billing machine. She is truly a gem and has a great attitude, attention to detail, and thoroughness.

To [Edith Rowe](#) for being a true leader and champion of Empowering Families of Milwaukee. She regularly takes on extra work, is committed to healthy babies, and provides ongoing support to her team members.

To [SSHC staff](#) for hosting great parties and raising extra contributions to both UPAF and United Way.

To SSHC Team Nursing for their great efforts in immunization, and their consistent high level of professionalism.

To [Songlor Xiong \(Lau\)](#) for helping develop data tracking processes for both PNCC and CORE nursing programs.

To [Pete Kloss](#) from the EFM Team for always being willing to help carry heavy items to our cars (Pack 'n Plays!) and moving filing cabinets any time we ask.

To the [EFM Staff](#) for making a difference in the Milwaukee community. You guys rock!

MILWAUKEE FETAL INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW (FIMR) PROJECT

by Karen Michalski

Infant deaths have triggered a lot of media attention recently, but the City of Milwaukee Health Department is concerned about all infant deaths at all times.

Our Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) program is housed on the first floor of the Zeidler Municipal Building. The program is designed to learn what can be done to prevent fetal and infant deaths in the city. Even when we know 'what' is associated with infant loss, we often cannot answer the intensely local 'why', 'how', 'who', and 'when' questions that could lead us to effective prevention. For example, WHY did a mother

fail to obtain prenatal care? WHEN did a family receive Safe Sleep information? WHY did a pregnant woman use an emergency room instead of her provider? HOW could a physician obtain the services of a community outreach worker? The answers are often quite specific to each situation and may emerge only after sifting through a considerable amount of detailed data.

FIMR accomplished a lot this past year. We did detailed abstractions on each in-

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FIMR PROJECT

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fant death and stillbirth. These abstractions include all available medical and social service information on both mom and baby. We continue to meet with a multi-disciplinary Case Review Team and analyze the infant deaths and stillbirths. Aggregate data and recommendations for individual and community action have been formulated and are being shared with our community partners. The hospital collaborative continues and has recently submitted a Healthy Wisconsin Partnership grant. We are also working with the Medical Examiner and the Children's Health Alliance Child Death Review to strengthen Milwaukee's pediatric death review process.

Every year over half of our infant deaths are among babies who were born too soon, or before 37 weeks' gestation. Deaths due to congenital anomalies and SIDS/SUDI (Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy) are the other major causes of infant death. We know that a substantial portion of these deaths are preventable. We offer the following recommendations to help prevent infant deaths and stillbirths:

- Know the signs and symptoms of preterm labor.
- Understand the importance of avoiding and treating all STIs, UTIs, and dental infections.
- Stop smoking.
- Realize that there is an increased risk of having a second preterm delivery after having had one early delivery.
- Babies should sleep on their backs, in a crib with a tight-fitting sheet, and without bumper pads, pillows, blankets or toys.

A Year of Many Changes

Retirements, promotions, title changes, location changes, people coming and going, new staff...the past 18 months, we've seen them all. Here is a brief summary of what's been happening to who, and where:

RETIREMENTS

Thank you to all who have devoted their careers to educating, empowering and improving the health of Milwaukee's citizens. Your many years of service are deeply appreciated.

Kathy Blair, ZMB	Brett Kemnitz, NWHC	Loyce Robinson, CEH
Toni Carroll, SSHC	Irma Ninala, KHC	Ellen Simandl, NWHC
Gail Garvey, SSHC	Jan Rach, SSHC	Barbara Voight, ZMB Lab

PROMOTION/RECLASSIFICATION

Anna Benton	to FCH Director	ZMB
Paul Biedrzycki	to Hlth. Svc. Director, DCEH	ZMB
Dave Bina	to Virologist III	ZMB Lab
Julie Driscoll	to Prog. Mgr., EFM	SSHC
Anupa Gandhi	to Emerg. Resp. & Planning Coord.	ZMB
David Griswold	to Microbiologist III	ZMB Lab
Angela Hagy	to Infectious Dis. Epidemiologist, CD	ZMB
Donna Howe	to Hlth. Proj. Coord. EP	ZMB
Kevin Hulbert	to EHS Supervisor	ZMB
Leah Jepson	to Fam. Interview Proj. Coordinator	SSHC
Joe Kadlek	to Inventory Control Asst. II	NWHC
Debra Howard	to OA II	?
Lisa Phillips	to Prog. Mgr., MBCCAP	NWHC
Jill Radowicz	to PHN Coordinator, FCH	SSHC
Ali Reed	to Chief Compliance Officer	ZMB
Yahaira Rodriguez	to OA II, DCEH	ZMB
Mat Wolters	to HEH Manager	ZMB
Bernita Zollicoffer	to Program Asst. II	ZMB

NEW STAFF/CITY TRANSFERS/APPOINTMENTS

Debra Burton	OA II, FCH	SSHC
Rob Chalhoub	PHN, HEH	ZMB
Eric Gass	PH Research & Policy Director	ZMB
Melany Gonzalez	PHN, EFM	SSHC
Robyn Hicks	PHN, EFM	SSHC
Tina Grace	Community Health Svcs. Officer	ZMB
Vesta Henry	PHN, ACHP	NWHC
Erika Olson	CD Specialist	KCHC
Jacqueline Johnson	PHN, Team Nursing	SSHC
Nikeyah Johnson	PH Social Worker, Team Nursing	SSHC

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NEW STAFF/CITY TRANSFERS/APPOINTMENTS

Sharicus Johnson	PHN	NWHC
Stella Mahaga	PHN	KHC
Melissa Mason	PHN, CD	ZMB
Emerald Mills	CD Specialist	KHC
Bill Morales	Mayors Against Illegal Guns	ZMB
Jose Navidad	Virologist II	ZMB Lab
Kawanza Newson	Health Communicactions Officer	ZMB
Joseph Payne	Env. Hlth. Specialist I	ZMB
Terry Perry	Violence Reduction & Prev. Manager	ZMB
Sharifa Qureshi	PHN	KHC
Melissa Rader	PHN, NFP	SSHC
Fred Radmer	Adult & Childhood Immunizations	ZMB
Lizabeth Rodriguez	Clinic Asst. I, WIC	NWHC
Yahaira Rodriguez	OA I, HEH	ZMB
Tanya Roeglin	Lead Risk Assessor, DCEH	ZMB
David Salentine	PHN, ACH	NWHC
Audrey Skwierawski	Injury & Prevention Program Coord.	ZMB
Karin Tyler	CD Specialist	KCHC
Ray Weitz	Health Personnel Officer, HR	ZMB
Dawn Wilson	PHN, NFP	SSHC

TITLE CHANGES

Shaira Hanif	to Tobacco Control Program Coordinator
Cynthia Heck	to PHN Coordinator
Sara Mishefske	to DCEH Manager
Cynthia Smith	to Personnel Payroll Assistant II

TRANSFERS FROM MHD TO OTHER CITY DEPTS

Megan Kemmerling	Personnel Payroll Assistant II	to DER
Dave Campbell	MHD DCEH	to DNS
Jeffrey Martin	SSHC	to MPD
Nichole Smith	OA II, FCH	to DNS

TRANSFERS WITHIN MHD

David Schmid	from SSHC PHN	to KHC TBCC
Ardelia Swiams	from KHC PHN	to SSHC DCEH
Twyla Devine	from SSHC	to KHC
Cindy Huebschmann	from SSHC PHN	to SSHC NFP

RESIGNATIONS

We also bid farewell to the following staff members and wish them well in their new endeavors:

Stacy Berdan	SSHC
Bill Blomenkamp	KHC
Andy Budde	ZMB
Lisa Case	NWCH
Ebony Cobb	SSHC
Sarah Frank	KHC
Legenda Gooding	SSHC
Joan Gray	NWHC
Rebecca Hardgrove	SSHC
Patricia Jansen	KHC
Rita Kittoe	SSHC
Jeanette Kowalik	ZMB
Michele LeBourgeois	ZMB
Kathryn Mogen	NWHC
Tracy Monfre	ZMB
Oscar Rincones	ZMB
David Salentine	NWHC
Nicole Shokatz	ZMB
Ericka Sinclair	KHC
Ardelia Swiams	SSHC
Susan Thaller	KHC
Anne Weske	ZMB

Deadline for Summer 2009 issue:

June 15, 2009

Send materials to Kawanza Newson at
knewso@milwaukee.gov



Mayor Tom Barrett

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Tom Barrett, Mayor
Bevan K. Baker,
Commissioner of Health
www.milwaukee.gov/health

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